

Australian Bat Lyssavirus

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Australian Bat Lyssavirus Latest News

Recently, an Australian man has died from Australian bat lyssavirus.

About Australian Bat Lyssavirus

- It is a rare but deadly **virus** that can be **transmitted from bats to humans** through bites or scratches.
- It is **closely related to the rabies virus** and was first identified in 1996 in a fruit bat in northern New South Wales, Australia.
- The lyssavirus is a **member of the Rhabdoviridae family**, which also includes viruses that cause rabies.
- The virus has **been discovered in flying foxes, fruit bats and insect-eating microbats** throughout Australia.
- **Transmission:** Human infection with bat lyssavirus occurs **through direct contact with infected bat saliva** via bites, scratches or open skin.
- It can also occur if our mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth) are exposed to bat saliva. There's **no risk associated with bat faeces, urine, blood**, or casual proximity to roosts.

- **Symptoms:** The nature of the illness in humans mirrors rabies, beginning with flu-like symptoms (fever, headache, fatigue), then quickly progressing to severe neurological disease, including paralysis, delirium, convulsions, and loss of consciousness.
- **Treatment:** Lyssavirus has **no effective treatment** once symptoms appear.

Source: TH

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